



State of Wisconsin / OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Scott McCallum, Governor
Connie L. O'Connell, Commissioner

Wisconsin.gov

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March 29, 2002

Re: **Medicare Reimbursement Summit:**
Seeking Equity in Medicare Payments and Spending
April 29, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Quality Inn, Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Interested Parties:

Current inequities in the way Medicare reimburses hospitals, physicians, insurers and other health care providers have had a dramatic and negative impact on the tax burden and health care costs in Wisconsin. Over the thirty-five years that the Medicare payment and distribution formula has been in existence, massive inequities have developed which create disadvantages for patients, providers and insurers. The arithmetic is simple -- these inequities have disproportionately forced higher health care costs on everyone in Wisconsin.

In an effort to address the pressures that Wisconsin consumers and businesses experience due to increasing health care costs, Governor Scott McCallum's Small Employer Health Insurance Task Force recognized the need to convene major stakeholders to examine the issues related to Medicare reimbursement inequities in Wisconsin.

As a result, Governor McCallum, through the Office of Commissioner of Insurance, in conjunction with several sponsoring organizations, has scheduled the following ***Medicare Reimbursement Summit: Seeking Equity in Medicare Payments and Spending***, on April 29, 2002, at the Quality Inn South, 4916 East Broadway, in Madison. Representatives from several of Wisconsin's largest health care organizations, including **John Smylie, CEO of Security Health Plan; Tim Size of the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative and George Quinn of the Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association**, will define the problem and explain its impact on Wisconsin providers, taxpayers, insurers and consumers. In addition, **Tom Still**, Associate Editor of the Wisconsin State Journal, will moderate an experienced panel of experts including **Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan, Wisconsin Hospital Association President Steve Brenton, Wisconsin Blue Cross & Blue Shield CEO Tom Hefty, and Dr. Susan Turney from the Wisconsin Medical Society**, through a discussion of recent activity in Washington and Wisconsin's future involvement.

To register for the summit, please contact Jim Guidry by phone at (608) 264-6239 or by email at jim.guidry@oci.state.wi.us by April 22, 2002. We look forward to seeing you at this important summit.

Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association
Wisconsin Physician Service Insurance Corp.
Blue Cross and Blue Shield United of Wisconsin
Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services

Wisconsin Medical Society
Wisconsin Association of Health Plans
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative